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REMARKS

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipate by *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013).

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) in view of further in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179).

In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 9, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) and *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000).

In paragraph 7 of the Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 8 of the Action, claims 12, 14, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485).

In paragraph 9 of the Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 10 of the Action, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* (US 6,301,013) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Stefik et al.* (US 2001/00085557).

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The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and request reconsideration. The application should be in condition for allowance for the reasons explained below. New claim 20 dependent from claim 1 has been filed.

As recited in amended claim 1, an image forming apparatus comprises a data collecting section to reduce data of a plurality of pages and create collected data collected in one single medium; a specific information creating section to create specific information applied to the one single medium; and a data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 1 includes the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

*Momose et al.* has disclosed a printing control apparatus that facilitates settings, such as magnification-reduction and a layout of plural pages on one printing plane, and thereby improves the operatability.

In *Momose et al.*, FIG. 9 shows a sub-window for setting the details of watermark printing. The sub-window includes a Marking dialog box 73 for selecting a desired marking among options registered in advance, a Position dialog box 74 for selecting a

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desired printing position among options, High, Middle, and Low, a Size lever 75 for setting a desired size of the marking, a Color dialog box 76 for selecting a desired color of the marking among options registered in advance, and a Density lever 77 for setting a desired printing density of the marking.

Further, according to *Momose et al.*, when the number of pages laid out in one printing plane and the sequence of layout arrangement are specified, the data editing unit 16 edits the bit-map data corresponding to the number of laid-out pages to be reduced linearly, for example, by the data skipping technique, and determines the coordinates of a reduced bit-map image having the specified sequence of layout arrangement based on the coordinate information described above (as shown in FIG. 10).

In the Action, the examiner stated that the data editing section of the invention is disclosed in *Momose et al.* as stating "4 pages are reduced to fit on a single page [Fig. 10] where a watermark is included [See Fig. 9 where the watermark may be positioned at different areas and colors and density may be adjusted]".

The applicant would like to point out the fact that, in *Momose et al.*, there is no graphical example of the watermark that is actually printed on the sheet. The character "A" shown in FIG. 10 is not the watermark as the character "A" is also shown in FIG. 5, which shows an example of the printed sheet without the watermark.

Further, according to *Momose et al.*, Position dialog box 74 is provided for selecting a desired printing position among options, High, Middle, and Low. However, there is no description regarding explicit definition of the positions "High, Middle, and Low".

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Therefore, "High, Middle, and Low" can be anywhere on the sheet, i.e., a high position of a header. Without a specific description or a specific graphic example, it is impossible for the person with the skill in the art to come up with an actual position of the watermark, not to mention the one single image of the specific information printed over at least two of the pages as recited in claim 1.

In the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 1, the data editing section overlaps the specific information with the collected data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without reduction, thereby making it possible to easily identify the specific information.

In *Momose et al.*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Momose et al.* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 1. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by *Momose et al.*

As recited in claim 9, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a plurality of pages; a specific information creating section to create specific information overlapped with the image data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages; a specific information inverting section to invert the specific information; and a data transmitting section to output the

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specific information inverted in the specific information inverting section and the image data.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 9 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages.

In the rejection of claim 9 in the Action, the examiner cited *Momose et al.* for supporting the teaching of the specific information creating section.

As explained for claim 1, in *Momose et al.*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Momose et al.* does not teach the specific feature of the invention recited in claim 9.

As recited in claim 12, an image forming apparatus comprises an image creating section to create image data of a plurality of pages from document data; a document information extracting section to extract document information from the document data; a specific information creating section to create specific information from the document information extracted by the document information extracting section, the specific information being overlapped with the image data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages; and a data transmitting section to output the specific information and the image data.

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In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 12 includes the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages.

Here, similar to claim 9, in the rejection of claim 12 in the Action, the examiner cited *Mori* for supporting the teaching of the specific information creating section.

Again, as explained for claims 1 and 9, in *Mori*, there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the specific information creating section to create the specific information overlapped with the image data, so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Accordingly, *Mori* does not teach the specific feature of the invention recited in claim 12.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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